

recommended by the Central team which visited the affected area;

(c) the details of assistance sought by the State Government and amount sanctioned by the Union Government to compensate the affected persons of the State till date;

(d) whether the full sanctioned amount has been released;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the full assistance is likely to be released to State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the reports received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, cyclones, heavy rains and floods during October and November, 1996 affected a population of 1.71 crores, claimed 1412 human lives and damaged 7.46 lakh houses and crops in an area of 15.49 lakh ha. in the State. The State Government had submitted two memoranda seeking additional assistance of Rs. 2693.00 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas. Central teams visited the affected areas and after considering these reports the National Calamity Relief Committee approved an assistance of Rs. 142.00 crores from the NFCR, which was released to the State Government on 1st January, 1997. This was in addition to Rs. 93.14 crores released as Central share of Calamity Relief Fund during 1996-97 and Rs. 63.00 crores sanctioned for rehabilitation in the coconut and cashewnut sector.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

#### **Public Distribution System**

579. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether functioning of the Public Distribution System in rural areas and its effectiveness have touched rock bottom in most of the States except southern part of the country;

(b) whether only 5.2% of the house-holds of Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are drawing from the PDS while it is 82% and 78% in Tamil Nadu and Kerala respectively;

(c) if so, whether food security for the poor has remained ineffective despite the high level of foodgrains production and large stocks lying with the FCI;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures contemplated by the Government to make Public Distribution System effective ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. Central Government makes available certain essential commodities to States and UTs, whereas the operational responsibility of implementing the PDS including distribution in rural and urban areas is of the State Governments/UT Administrations. There is considerable variation in the reach of PDS among different States in the rural areas.

PDS is universal in nature. The strengthening and streamlining of the operations under PDS is a continuous process. Matters relating to improving the PDS are emphasised and discussed with State Governments/UT Administrations in various fora like regional meetings, conferences, etc. Central Government also monitors the progress in various States/UTs through periodical reports on selected items.

Government of India has now taken a decision to streamline the PDS with focus on the poor, under which 10 kgs. of foodgrains per month per family at about half the Central Issue Price (CIP) will be provided to all families living below poverty line. State Governments/UT Administrations have been asked to ensure necessary arrangements for fool-proof identification of poor, delivery of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for distribution in a transparent and accurate manner.

State Governments/UT Administrations have also been directed to implement the system of monitoring and reporting on the working of PDS together with constitution of Vigilance Committees at Fair Price Shops, District and State levels.

[Translation]

#### **Additions to OBCs List**

580. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the department of Social Welfare of the Gujarat Government has sent proposals to the Centre regarding enlargement of common list of Other Backward Classes in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received during the said period till date with year-wise break-up;